

[10 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

Sample Survey Organisation. These surveys are conducted Once in approximately five years. The latest estimates of poverty are available for the year 1993-94 based on the National Sample Survey data on consumer expenditure of the SOth Round. Since the estimates of poverty between 1990-91 and 1999-2000 are available for one year only, it is not possible to conclude that poverty has increased during the economic reforms. Data from the latest large sample survey is expected to become available by the end of the year.

**Families Below Poverty Line in Maharashtra**

2154. SHRI SURYA BHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of families living below the poverty line particularly in Adivasi districts of Maharashtra State;
- (b) the effect of various schemes started at different parts to uplift the people living below the poverty line in Maharashtra State;
- (c) what are the results of such schemes have yielded;
- (d) if none, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the measures Government have undertaken to improve their living?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The Planning Commission estimates the percentage of persons living below poverty line at National And State level from the large sample survey of consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years. The last such survey was conducted in 1993-94. As per the latest estimates of percentage of persons living below the poverty line, based on the consumer expenditure survey data of SOth Round of NSSO, 36.86 per cent of the population in

Maharashtra lived below the poverty line in 1993-94. Since the National Sample Survey (NSS) data on consumer expenditure are not available at district level, and as the Planning Commission estimates the poverty on the basis of the quinquennial consumer expenditure survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), it is not possible to estimate the incidence of poverty in the Adivasi districts.

(b) to (e) There is a three-pronged action to alleviate and reduce the poverty in the country. These are (i) acceleration of economic growth, (ii) human, and social development through literacy, education, health, nutrition, meeting of the minimum needs, elevation of social and economic status of the weaker sections of the society, etc., and (iii) direct attack on poverty through employment and income generating programmes and assets-building for the poor.

The increase in income of the people living below the poverty line occur from the joint impact of general growth process and direct income generation of the poor arising from various anti-poverty programmes introduced from time to time by the Government for their upliftment. Since the Sixth Five Year Plan (1980—85), the Government has been implementing employment, and asset generation schemes for the upliftment of the people living below the poverty line. These schemes are mainly of two types, self-employment and wage employment. Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) has been the major self-employment programme and it has been in operation in all the blocks of the country since 1980. The wage employment programme initially was National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) during the Sixth Plan period. In the Seventh Plan, another wage employment programmes under the name Rural Labour Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) was introduced. Then in 1989, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) was launched by merging the National Rural Employment Programme and the Rural Labour Employment Guarantee Programme, and it became the main wage-employment a programme. In addition, several programmes to help the poor were also in operation until March, 1999. These programme are Million Wells Scheme (MWS), Emploment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), Training of Rural Youth for

[10 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

Self-Employment (TRYSEM), Supply of Improved Toolkits to Rural Artisans (SITRA).

From 1st April, 1999, these programmes, excepting EAS and JRY have been restructured into single self-employment programme called the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) with the primary objectives of focused approach to poverty alleviation, capitalising advantages of group lending, and overcoming the problems associated with multiplicity of programmes. Also, from 1st April, 1999; Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) has been restructured as Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) with the primary objective of creation of demand driven community village infrastructure including durable assets at the village level and assets to enable the rural poor to increase the opportunities for sustained employment. Its secondary objective is generation of supplementary employment for the unemployed poor in the rural areas. The wage employment under the programme is given to Below Poverty Lines (BPL) families.

From 1.12.1997, Swarna Jayanti Sahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) is the main poverty alleviation programme in the urban areas. The SJSRY, which has subsumed all the earlier three urban poverty alleviation programmes, viz. Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY), Urban Basic Service for the Poor (UBSP), Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMIUPEP), seeks to provide gainful employment to unemployed or underemployed urban and educated up to IX standard for setting up self employment ventures or provision of wage employment. The implementation of SJSRY is relying on suitable community structures on the UBSP pattern and delivery of inputs under this programme is through the medium of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and such community structure.

It is not possible to isolate the impact of each of these factors on the income generation of the poor, and hence on the percentage of people living below the poverty line. However, as a result of the joint impact of these two factors, there has been a reduction in the percentage of people living below the poverty line in Maharashtra from 55.88 per cent in 1997-78 to 36.86 per cent in 1993-94.